



## **West Virginia Initial Proposal Volume I**

### **Public Comment Form**

The West Virginia Department of Economic Development, Office of Broadband, (“WVDED”), is pleased to provide the BEAD Initial Proposal Volume 1 for review and comment. Comments will be accepted for 30 days, beginning Wednesday, August 30 through Saturday, September 30, 2023.

The WVDED is tasked with deploying local and federal broadband funds, including \$1.2 billion in federal Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) funding for broadband development in West Virginia. BEAD is administered by the National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA). This historic investment in broadband infrastructure and related digital inclusion efforts will support West Virginia’s universal broadband access vision to, “Achieve universal broadband coverage and digital equity throughout the State through aggressive broadband deployment goals and a commitment to closing the digital divide through robust equity and inclusion initiatives.”

The BEAD application requires several steps: a Five-Year Action Plan, this Initial Proposal Volume I, and the forthcoming Initial Proposal Volume II, followed by a Final Proposal. Additionally, the BEAD Program requires states to coordinate efforts with Digital Equity planning and capacity building.

West Virginia’s Initial Proposal Volume 1 builds upon the goals, objectives, and strategies outlined in West Virginia’s BEAD Five-Year Action Plan and meets four of the 21 BEAD program requirements:

1. **Existing broadband funding** available to WVDED;
2. **Unserved and underserved locations** eligible for BEAD funding;
3. **Definitions and locations of Community Anchor Institutions** (CAIs) in West Virginia; and
4. Plans for an evidence-based, transparent, fair, and expeditious BEAD **challenge process**, as well as the **process to de-duplicate funding** in West Virginia.

For more information, please visit:  
[Internetforallwv.wv.gov](https://Internetforallwv.wv.gov/broadband.wv.gov)  
[broadband.wv.gov](https://Internetforallwv.wv.gov/broadband.wv.gov)



<b>Required Information</b>	
County of Residence	
Zip Code	
<b>Optional Information</b>	
Name	
Email Address	
Organizational Affiliation (If any)	
Title	

Comments on West Virginia Initial Proposal Volume 1.

Thank you for your interest in the BEAD Initial Proposal Volume 1. Please return this form to your Regional Planning and Development Council Office by September 30, 2023, or mail with a postmark on or before September 30, 2023, to:

West Virginia Department of Economic Development, Office of Broadband  
 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
 Building 3, Suite 600  
 Charleston, West Virginia 25305

For more information, please visit:  
[Internetforallwv.wv.gov](http://Internetforallwv.wv.gov)  
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